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10/052,612

# REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Official Action mailed January 25, 2007. Reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Request for Continued Examination:

Applicant hereby requests Continued Examination for this application and entry and consideration of this amendment consequent thereto.

Claim Status:

By the present amendment, claims 1, 11 and 26 have been amended. Support for the amendments to these claims can be found in Applicant's originally filed specification at, for example, paragraphs 0003, 0030, 0031 and 0039.

The amendments made to these independent claims are made merely to clarify the claim language and to render explicit that which was already implicit in the claims given the definitions of claim terms in Appellant's specification. Consequently, the amendments made by this paper are not intended to change or narrow the scope of the claims in any degree.

Additionally, new claim 32 has been added. Support for the subject matter of claim 32 can be found in Applicant's originally filed specification at, for example, paragraph 0024.

Claims 7 and 30 were cancelled previously without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-29, 31 and 32 are currently pending for further action.

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Prior Art:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 4-6, 11, 13-16, 26, 27, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,973,589 to Wright et al. ("Wright") and U.S. Patent No. 6,526,581 to Edson ("Edson"). For at least the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites

> A computer network for providing services comprising:
> *a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises general-purpose, programmable computing resources that can be selectively programmed for supporting one or more of a plurality of different electronic services, wherein said services are controlled or operated by commands or data transmitted via email;*
> a mail server for receiving and routing email; and
> a redirector, separate from said mail server, communicatively connected to said mail server and each of said computing elements, wherein said redirector receives email from said mail server, wherein each email contains a command or data for a specific said service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element, and *wherein said redirector is configured to selectively match an available computing element with a specific service request of an incoming email, whether or not said email is addressed to a specific computing element,* and forward at least a portion of the email to that computing element so as to deliver said command or data to that specific service, such that said redirector serves as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements;
> wherein said electronic services are controlled by said email routed by said redirector among said plurality of computing elements.

(Emphasis added).

Independent claim 26 similarly recites:

> A computer network for providing electronic services comprising:
> *a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises general-purpose, programmable computing resources that can be selectively programmed for supporting one or more of a plurality of different electronic services, wherein said services can be controlled or executed by commands or data transmitted via email;*
> a mail server for receiving and routing email; and
> a redirector, separate from said mail server and said plurality of computing elements, communicatively connected to said mail server and each of said computing elements, wherein said redirector receives email from said mail server, wherein each email contains a command or data for a specific said service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element, and wherein said redirector is configured to selectively match an available computing element with a specific service request of an incoming email and forward at least a portion of the email to that computing

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element so as to deliver said command or data to that specific service, such that said redirector serves as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements; and

a service handler on at least one of said computing elements for automatically obtaining an electronic service using an incoming email and installing that service on the computing element corresponding to the service handler.

(Emphasis added).

In contrast, neither Wright nor Edson teach or suggest the claimed network comprising "a plurality of computing elements *each of which comprises general-purpose, programmable computing resources that can be selectively programmed for supporting one or more of a plurality of different electronic services*, wherein said services can be controlled or executed by commands or data transmitted via email." (Emphasis added). In fact, Wright and Edson appear to be almost entirely inapplicable to Applicant's claimed subject matter.

By way of relevant background, Wright teaches an Intelligent Electronic Device (105, Fig. 2) ("IED"). The IED (105) sits between a network, such as the Internet (port 215), and a power system (107) so that email commands can be transmitted over the network to the IED (105) for controlling the power system (107). The IED (105) responds to email commands and controls the power system (107) accordingly through a power system interface (222). (Wright, col. 5, line 61 to col. 6, line 7).

Similarly, Edson, as cited in the Office Action, allows a user to remotely control household appliances. According to Edson, "[t]he gateway 13 and the communications with the controller 41C enable monitoring and control of virtually any home appliance. The user might check the status of a microwave oven from the PC 43, and enter further operational commands if desired. Alternatively, the controller 41C can send alarm reports through the gateway 13 and the Internet to any desired external location, for example to inform a user at her office of a problem with the air conditioning, or the user might send control information

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from a remote location to adjust the air conditioning temperature setting." (Edson, col. 15, lines 29-39).

In contrast, Applicant's claims have nothing to do with managing and controlling a power system (as in Wright) or home appliances (as in Edson). Applicant claims "a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises general-purpose, programmable computing resources that can be selectively programmed for supporting one or more of a plurality of different electronic services, wherein said services can be controlled or executed by commands or data transmitted via email." As stated in Applicant's specification, "[e]xamples of computing elements include computer systems, server systems," etc. (Applicant's specification, paragraph 0003).

In contrast, a power system (as in Wright) and home appliances (as in Edson) are not a plurality of computing elements each of which has one or more electronic services executing thereon, as claimed. Thus, Wright and Edson fail to teach or suggest the claimed "plurality of computing elements" comprising general-purpose, programmable computing resources that each can be programmed to support any of a number of different electronic services.

"To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least this reason, the rejection of these claims based on Wright and Edson should not be maintained.

Moreover, with this background, it becomes clear that Wright and Edson fail to teach or suggest the claimed redirector. In this regard, the Office Action refers exclusively to the teachings of Wright. (Action of 1/25/07, pp. 2 and 3). Specifically, the Office Action construes Wright's IED (105) as the claimed redirector. (Action of 1/25/07, p. 2).

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However, claim 1 further recites, "wherein said redirector is configured to selectively match an available computing element with a specific service request of an incoming email, *whether or not said email is addressed to a specific computing element,* and forward at least a portion of the email to that available computing element so as to deliver said command or data to that specific service, such that said redirector serves as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements." In contrast, the combination of Wright and Edson does not teach or suggest this subject matter. The combination of Wright and Edson does not teach or suggest a redirector that processes email and selectively matches an available computing element with a specific service request regardless of whether the email is addressed to that or any other specific computing element.

The IED of Wright, cited in this regard by the Office Action, only receives email regarding operation of the power system, i.e., addressed to the power system. The teachings of Wright and Edson do not allow for the claimed subject matter in which an email being handled is matched to an unavailable computing element whether or not the email is addressed to that or some other computing element. Thus, the combination of Wright and Edson does not teach or suggest the claimed redirector.

Again, "[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For any and all of these reasons, the rejection based on Wright and Edson should not be maintained, but should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, claim 26 further recites "a service handler *on at least one of said computing elements* for automatically obtaining an electronic service using an incoming email

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and installing that service on the computing element corresponding to the service handler." (Emphasis added). In this regard, the Office Action cites to Wright at col. 7, lines 18-40. (Action of 1/25/07, p. 5). This portion of Wright teaches that the "IED 105 may receive information 300, such as settings, configuration, operating code, requests for information or one or more commands, through an email messaging system." (Wright, col. 7, lines 18-40). This, however, refers to operating code received *by the IED (105)*, which the Office Action equates with the claimed redirector. As now recited in claim 26, the redirector is "separate from said mail server and said plurality of computing elements. Consequently, the IED (105) of Wright cannot be construed as being both the claimed redirector and a claimed computing element, as the Office Action attempts in its rejection of claim 26. (Action of 1/25/07, p. 12).

Consequently, there is no teaching in the combination of Wright and Edson of the claimed service handler *on a computing element* that is served by the redirector, where the service handler is "for automatically obtaining an electronic service using an incoming email and *installing that service on the computing element corresponding to the service handler."* (Emphasis added). Therefore, it is inescapably clear that the combination of Wright and Edson fails to teach or suggest a great many of the elements of Applicant's claims. "To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For these many reasons, the rejection based on Wright of claims 1 and 26 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent claim 11 recites:

*A method of providing services with a computer network that comprises a plurality of computing elements each of which comprise general-purpose, programmable computing resources that can be selectively programmed for*

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*supporting one or more of a plurality of different electronic services* that are controlled or operated by commands or data received via email, and a redirector, communicatively connected to each of said computing elements; said method comprising:

receiving an email message, said message containing a command or data configured for a specific service on one of said computing elements, wherein said email message relates to said specific service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element; and

routing at least some of said email message comprising said command or data to a corresponding computing element to control or execute said specific service, such that said redirector serves as an email proxy for said computing elements, wherein said redirector determines which computing element receives said command or data from said email message based on the specific service to which that email message relates.

(Emphasis added).

In contrast, as demonstrated above, the combination of Wright and Edson fails to teach or suggest a method that involves providing services with a computer network *"that comprises a plurality of computing elements each of which comprise general-purpose, programmable computing resources that can be selectively programmed for supporting one or more of a plurality of different electronic services."* (Emphasis added). The combination further fails to teach or suggest "receiving an email message, said message containing a command or data configured for a specific service on one of said [plurality of] computing elements, wherein said email message relates to said specific service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element." Wright and Edson further fail to teach or suggest . "routing at least some of said email message comprising said command or data to a corresponding computing element to control or execute said specific service, such that said redirector serves as an email proxy for said computing elements, wherein said redirector determines which computing element receives said command or data from said email message based on the specific service to which that email message relates."

As demonstrated above, the combination of Wright and Edson teach systems for controlling power generators and home appliances. The combined teachings of the prior art

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have nothing to do with, and do not teach or suggest, the claimed method of providing electronic services with "a plurality of computing elements each of which comprise general-purpose, programmable computing resources that can be selectively programmed for supporting one or more of a plurality of different electronic services." The combination of Wright and Edson thus fails to teach or suggest this or any of the other noted subject matter recited in claim 11. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 11 should not be maintained, but should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The various dependent claims of the application recite further subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the combination of Wright and Edson. Specific, non-exclusive examples follow.

Claim 4 recites "said redirector comprises a service handler for extracting an access function from incoming email messages; and said service handler complies with said extracted access function by transmitting commands or data to at least one of said plurality of computing elements supporting said services." Claim 13 recites similar subject matter. In contrast, as demonstrated above, the IED (105) of Wright receives commands via email for *itself.* It does not include a service handler that extracts an access function from an incoming email and complies with the access function by *transmitting commands or data* to one of a plurality of computing elements supporting a variety of electronic services. Wright is entirely inapplicable to claims 4 and 13.

Claim 5 recites "wherein said commands or data comprises a service." Claims 14 and 27 recites similar subject matter. Wright does not teach or suggest extracting a service from an email and transmitting that service to one of a plurality of computing elements. Claim 27 specifically recites a service handle *on of the computing elements* that receives an email from

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the redirector and extracts a service from that email.  Wright does not teach or suggest this

subject matter.

Claim 6 recites "wherein said commands or data comprises a specified location where

a service can be accessed."  Claim 15 recites similar subject matter.  Wright does not teach or

suggest this subject matter.

Claim 31 recites "a separate service handler on each of said plurality of computing

components."  Wright does not teach or suggest this subject matter.  Moreover, the Office

Action fails to indicate how or where Wright teaches a plurality of computing elements each

having a separate service handler.

For at least these additional reasons, the rejection based on Wright of these dependent

claims should be further reconsidered and withdrawn.


Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 17, 18, 21-25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

over the combined teachings of Wright, Edson and U.S. Patent No. 5,819,110 to Motoyama

("Motoyama").  (Action of 1/25/07, p. 6).  This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least

the same reasons given above with respect to the independent claims.

Additionally, claim 8 recites: "a firewall through which said email messages are

received, said mail server and redirector both being protected within a common firewall."

Claim 17 recites similar subject matter.  In this regard, the Office Action takes "Official

Notice" "that both the concept and advantages of providing for a firewall to protect the email

processing center is well known." (Action of 1/25/07, p. 7).  This is irrelevant.

Claim 8 does not merely recite a firewall, but that both a server and redirector and

defined and claimed by Applicant are protected within a common firewall.  This subject

matter has not been shown to be taught or suggested by the prior art of record.  Consequently,

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Applicant hereby requests that prior art actually teaching the features of claims 8 and 17 be introduced into the record or that the rejection of claims 8 and 17 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 9 recites "further comprising a web client within said firewall communicating with said redirector to obtain access to said services." Claim 18 recites similar subject matter. Again, Wright and Motoyama fail to teach or suggest this subject matter, and the Office Action fails to clearly indicate how or where the prior art teaches or suggests this subject matter. Thus, Applicant again requests that prior art actually teaching the features of claims 9 and 18 be introduced into the record or that the rejection of claims 9 and 18 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 10, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teaching of Wright, Edson, Motoyama and U.S. Patent No. 6,480,901 to Weber et al. ("Weber"). (Action of 1/25/07, p. 8). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the same reasons given above with respect to the independent claims.

Additionally, claim 10 recites "wherein said redirector generates web pages related to said services for said web client." Claims 19 and 20 dependent, respectively from claims 18 and 11, and recite: "generating web pages for a [said] web client with said redirector, said web pages being related to said services."

In this regard, the Office Action cites to Weber at Fig. 7 and col. 14, lines 23-41. (Action of 1/25/07, p. 9). However, these portions of Weber do not teach or suggest a redirector, as disclosed and claimed, that generates web pages relating to the services provided on a plurality of connected computing elements for which the redirector serves as an

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email proxy. For at least this additional reason, the rejection of claims 10, 19 and 20 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.
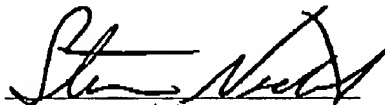
Conclusion:

The newly added claim is thought to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons given above with respect to the original independent claims. Therefore, examination and allowance of the newly added claim is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.
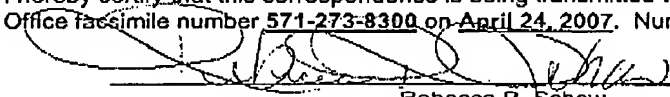
Respectfully submitted,

DATE: April 24, 2007

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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. ____100200239-1____

Inventor(s):    Ravikumar Pisupati

Application No.: 10/052,612

Filing Date:    January 17, 2002

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Examiner: AVELLINO, Joseph E.

Group Art Unit:   2143

Title: A Computer Network for Providing Services and a Method of Providing Services with a Computer Network

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PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Transmitted herewith is/are the following in the above-identified application:

- [X] Response/Amendment
- [ ] New fee as calculated below
- [X] No additional fee
- [X] Other   Request for Continued Examination (RCE) 37 CFR 1.114

- [ ] Petition to extend time to respond
- [ ] Supplemental Declaration

Fee$

| CLAIMS AS AMENDED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) FOR | (2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | (3) NUMBER EXTRA | (4) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | (5) PRESENT EXTRA | (6) RATE | (7) ADDITIONAL FEES |
| TOTAL CLAIMS | 30 | MINUS | 30 | = 0 | X  $50 | $  0 |
| INDEP. CLAIMS | 3 | MINUS | 3 | = 0 | X  $200 | $  0 |
| [ ]  FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM | | | | + $360 | | $  0 |
| EXTENSION FEE | [ ] 1st Month $120 | [ ] 2nd Month $450 | [ ] 3rd Month $1020 | [ ] 4th Month $1590 | | $  0 |
| | | | | | OTHER FEES | $ |
| | | | | TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT | | $  0 |

Charge $____0____ to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number (571) 273-8300.
Date of facsimile: April 24, 2007

Typed Name: ___Rebecca R. Schow___

Signature: _____

Respectfully submitted,

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Rev 10/05 (TransAmdFax)